THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The comments of the Government of Kerala for inclusion of Thachar (other than Carpenter) in the list of Scheduled Castes of Kerala have been sent to the Registrar General of India for their comments as per approved modalities.

Demand of disabled rights group

1915. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Disabled Rights Group had placed twelve demands to the Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office in May this year for extention of various facilities and concessions to physically, visually and also mentally impaired persons, including tax concession on equipments for their aid;

(b) if so, the details of their demands;

(c) whether the same were accepted in principle; and

(d) if so, the decision taken thereon and the steps taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The Disabled Rights Group (DRG) submitted their demands to the Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office on 6th May, 2002, The demands cover a wide range of issues such as raising of limit of income tax exemption for disabled persons, no taxes on production and import of aids & appliances meant for disabled persons, incentives to private sector to promote employment, shifting office of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCD) from NOIDA to Delhi, all facilities/concessions given to persons with orthopedic, visual and hearing disabled to be extended to mentally impaired, one per cent reservation for people with mental and/or developmental disabilities in C&D category of jobs, standardization of Indian Sign Language, further revision of the list of identified posts for persons with disabilities, abolishing Office of CCD and constituting a Disability Commission, passage of amendments to Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995, shifting 'Special Education'from Ministry of Social

Justice & Empowerment to Ministry of Human Resource Development and passage of an ordinance to ensure barrier free design and access features in all future construction.

The demands relating to legislative, financial and administrative aspects involving various Ministries/Departments of Government of India and the State Governments have been referred to them. The Government has approved the proposal to shift the Office of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities from NOIDA to Delhi. A reply to the representation has been sent to DRG.

Pilot projects for welfare of Disabled in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka

1916. SHRISUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed a pilot project in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka for the welfare of the disabled in collaboration with the Rehabilitation Council for India;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the budget allocation made therefor; and

(c) the other steps taken to enable the society to treat the disabled on par with others?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government of India has enacted the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 (PWD Act) that seeks to ensure equal opportunities for persons with disabilities and their full participation in nation-building. It provides for both preventive and promotional aspect of rehabilitation like education, employment and vocational training, job reservation, rehabilitation and manpower development, creation of barrier-free environment, rehabilitation for persons with disability, etc. the Act also provides for grievance redressal mechanism in relation to deprivation